

House eases closing of military bases

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes in the week ending July 15.

HOUSE

MILITARY BASES — The House voted 223 for and 186 against to toughen pending legislation (HR 4481) to expedite the closing of obsolete military bases.

The vote adopted an amendment that minimizes congressional and bureaucratic obstacles to Pentagon plans to shut down surplus bases. It eliminated the possibility of closures

being blocked by lengthy environmental and economic studies, and it enabled the Pentagon to begin shut-downs without having to wait for Congress to vote on advance approval.

The overall bill was sent to conference with the Senate on a non-record vote. It empowers a Pentagon commission to come up with a list of proposed closings by the end of the year. The defense secretary would order elimination of all or none of the targeted bases.

Congress could block closures only if both houses pass a resolution of disapproval; if the resolution is vetoed, they must muster two-thirds

Roll Call Report

majorities in each chamber to override the veto.

Members voting yes favored the tougher of two pending procedures for closing obsolete military bases. Voting yes were Republicans Carl Persell of Plymouth and William Broomfield of Birmingham.

Voting no were Democrats Dennis Hietel of Harper Woods and William Ford of Taylor.

Not voting was Sander Levin, D-Southfield.

PLANT CLOSING — By a vote of 286 for and 136 against, the House passed and sent to the White House a bill (S 2527) requiring employers of 100 or more workers to give 60 days' notice of plans to lay off at least 10 workers or close plants and places of business.

President Reagan has threatened to veto this legislative priority of organized labor.

Members voting yes favored the plant-closing bill. Voting yes were Persell, Hietel, Ford and Levin. Voting no: Broomfield.

ETHANOL IMPORTS — By a

vote of 183 for and 237 against, the House rejected an attempt to restrict imports of ethanol fuel from Caribbean nations.

Supporters of the GOP-drafted motion argued that European producers plan to ship ethanol through the Caribbean, thus avoiding U.S. duties and hurting American ethanol and corn producers.

Opponents said the shipments from the Caribbean would supply only a tiny portion of U.S. consumption and that ethanol is scarce in many parts of the nation.

The vote occurred as the House approved the conference report on sweeping legislation (HR 4948) to toughen America's world trading stance while extending protection and benefits to workers and industries hurt by certain foreign competition. The massive trade bill was headed for likely approval in the

Senate and President Reagan's expected signature.

Members voting yes wanted to limit duty free ethanol imports from the Caribbean. Voting yes were Republicans Persell and Broomfield. Voting no were Democrats Hietel, Ford and Levin.

SENATE

GAY RIGHTS — The Senate voted, 58 for and 33 against, to undercut a District of Columbia law recognizing gay rights at religious schools in the federal city.

The amendment was attached to a bill (HR 4776) appropriating \$3.7 billion toward the 1989 D.C. budget. It calls for halting the federal aid if D.C. by the end of the year has not repealed an ordinance under which Georgetown University must treat gay organizations the same as it does other student groups.

The U.S. Court of Appeals last year used the local law to order Georgetown, a Catholic school, to provide gay groups full access to its facilities. Amendment sponsor William

Armstrong, R-Colo., called the D.C. ordinance an assault on academic freedom and religious liberty.

Opponent Lowell Weicker, R-Conn., termed the amendment "plain, old-fashioned, straightforward bigotry and discrimination."

Members voting yes wanted to undercut the D.C. ordinance on behalf of gays.

Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle voted no.

VETERANS DEPARTMENT

By a vote of 84 for and 11 against, the Senate approved and sent to conference with the House a bill (S 533) upgrading the Veterans Administration to the cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs.

Supporters argued veterans deserve the highest possible representation in government councils, while foes said the bill would establish a costly new layer of special-interest bureaucracy.

Sensors voting yes wanted to establish a cabinet department for veterans. Levin and Riegle voted yes.

Road panel sets hearing Monday

The public is being asked for advice as the Oakland County Road Commission puts together its 1989 budget and road improvement program.

The public hearing will start at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15, in the County Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

"We want residents to help us set priorities for developing and maintaining their roads," said OCR Chairman Fred Houghten of Rochester Hills.

Houghten added that information would be available and views shared

on the Nov. 8 ballot proposal — a \$25 vehicle registration fee that would raise \$19 million a year for 10 years.

Copies of the budget are available from the OCRC finance office at 645-2000 ext. 2237. Copies of the road improvement program are available from the OCRC engineering department at ext. 2266.

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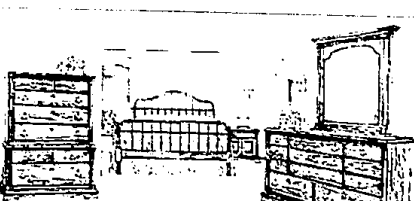
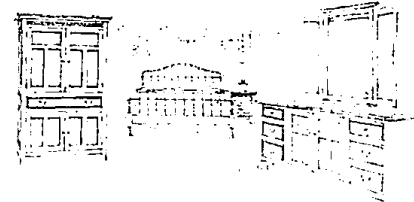
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